

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2018

Call to Order: The Chair, Chief Judge Michael Newell called the DVCC Quarterly meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Introductions: In attendance were the following DVCC members: Chief Judge Michael Newell, (Chair, Family Court), Dana Harrington Conner (Vice Chair, Widener), Representative Deborah Hudson (General Assembly), Judge Carl Danberg (CCP), Attorney General Matthew Denn (DOJ), Chief Defender Brendan O'Neill (ODS), Secretary Robert Coupe (DSHS), Dr. Julie Silverstein (CCHS), Laura Graham, Esq. (CLASI), Jennifer Naccarelli (University of DE), Cpl./3 Adrienne Owen (DSP), Vincent Poppiti (Fox Rothschild)

Also in attendance were: Hon. Andrea Rocanelli (Superior Court), Erin Connolly (DOC), Ellie Torres (Family Court), Terica Jones (CJC), Det. Jeffrey Hill (Capitol Police), Katie Sparacino (CCHS), Heather Cronin (University of DE), Nina Dietrich (DELJIS), Nancy McGee (SAND), Michel Ostafy (CHILD, Inc.), Karin Volker (DOJ), Nancy Carranza (Abriendo Puertas) and Marian Kenville-Moore (DCADV)

DVCC Staff: Maureen Monagle, Natasha Smith, Pat Kwetkauskie, Karen Ewing and Kelli Cresta (Intern).

Minutes: A motion to approve the December 11, 2017 minutes was made, seconded and the minutes were approved.

Vote for At-Large Members: Per the DVCC Statute, At-Large Members are voted in on during the first meeting of each calendar year. The Chair opened the floor for voting on individual At-Large Members: Dana Harrington Conner, Diane Glenn, Jennifer Naccarelli, Vincent Poppiti, Laura Graham and Ariana Langford. A motion was made to approve; motion was seconded.

HB 301 amending the At-Large Members term to be for a period of three years is out of Committee. A change to the Council's By-laws will be needed.

VAWA Implementation Committee Information: Terica Jones (CJC) sought approval from the Council for the following grant programs:

- **FFY2017 S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program:** Delaware was awarded \$939,139.00 for the FFY2017 STOP VAWA Grant. The VAWA Implementation Committee recommends \$63,397.00 be awarded to SOAR, Inc for a new program to provide 150 psychotherapy recovery groups. \$50,000 to be awarded to Millsboro Police Department to develop an additional sworn criminal investigator. In addition, \$56,733.00 to the Latin American Community Center to continue providing bilingual and bi-culture victims' education and counseling and \$50,000.00 to Georgetown Police Department to continue having a DV & SA Investigator. The details of each program were provided in the handouts. A motion was made to approve; motion was seconded. The funding recommendations were approved with one abstention due to participation on the VAWA Committee.

Follow up items: Goals and recommendations from the **Strategic Planning Day Summary Report:** 1) enhance court communication; 2) coordinate and address high risk cases; 3) promote resources for offenders; and 4) develop strategies for education and prevention. A motion was made to approve; motion was seconded.

Domestic Violence High Risk Team Ad Hoc Advisory Board recommends 1) DVCC support the implementation of a DV High Risk Team; 2) Kent County to be pilot site for DV High Risk Team; 3) DVCC be the lead agency for the DV High Risk Team; and 4) DVCC responsible for housing a full time DV High Risk Team Coordinator. Funding will be needed to implement the High Risk Team and the DVCC will move forward with project through the Victim Services Advisory Committee. A motion was made to approve; motion was seconded.

Family Court Enhancement Project: Chief Judge Newell (FC) updated the Council on the FCEP recommendations: 1) resource centers more open and friendly; 2) mediators have name badges; 3) Commissioners write specific findings for PFA grounds; 4) PFA scripts – ensure all litigants getting same information; 5) PFA packets available in resource centers for self-representing litigants and 6) New Castle County implemented 2 PFA days per week (Wednesday & Friday).

FCEP grant was extended to September 2018 due to personnel changes. At the May 2018, Council meeting the PFA video script will be viewed by Council.

Fatal Incident Review Team (FIRT) Update: Dana Harrington Conner (Widener) reviewed several sections of the FIRT report including recommendations. It was highlighted that Delaware shows a decrease in domestic violence deaths when attempting to leave perpetrator (47%); however, nationally, the statistic is (67%). Dana noted that Delaware statistic is based on cases reviewed not overall deaths.

Dana reviewed FIRT recommendations with the Council.

2016 Recommendation Follow Ups

- Temporary removal of firearms in alleged psychiatric emergencies – HB 222 requires diagnosis. A discussion will occur at the May 2018 Council meeting.
- Revise Parent Ed to include information about challenges of blended families and domestic violence was completed in 2017.

2017 Recommendation Follow Ups

- Child Protection Accountability Commission and Family Court Recommendations was completed in 2017.

2018 Recommendations

- Bench & Bar Training – DVCC Training Committee will address
- Medical Community Training – DVCC Medical Committee will address

A discussion surrounding having a joint symposium to include both trainings occurred.

DVCC Committee Updates:

Children & DV: Natasha Smith (DVCC) stated that the Committee continues to examine the statutory definition of a perpetrator of domestic violence and the rebuttable presumption in custody cases. This committee is also reviewing the Separating and Divorcing Parents education curriculum and what domestic violence information is included in the course. In addition to reviewing the curriculum the committee is also researching the possibility of an online course and what options may be offered in other states.

Lastly, the committee has been updated on the timeline for the Safe & Together Institute providing technical assistance for the Domestic Violence Liaison Programs across the state. In April, Domestic Violence Liaisons and their supervisor as well as select staff from the Division of Family Services will attend training provided by the Safe and Together Institute as a part of the technical assistance package.

Criminal Justice: Brendan O'Neill (ODS) stated the committee no new items to report. Council is moving forward with High Risk Team.

Treatment: Brendan O'Neill (ODS) stated that the Committee is forming recommendations from the Evaluation of Batterers' Intervention Program report. Statistics from the report show that those who have completed the Batterers' Intervention Program are less likely to have domestic violence re-offenses.

Immigration: Laura Graham (CLASI) stated the committee will need an outside evaluator to follow up with a "focus group for needs assessment" within the Hispanic community. Discussion occurred on: 1) ICE has apprehending individuals outside the Sussex County Courthouse; and 2) "Public Charge" Immigrants.

Training Committee: Ellie Torres (FC) stated the Dr. Jackie Campbell will be conducting Danger Assessment training in May 2018. A meeting will be held on 4/30/18 at the Delaware State Police Museum to discuss the FIRT report recommendations.

Elderly & DV: Pat Kwetkauskie (DVCC) stated the committee reviewed two documents: 1) an Infographic that is based on the Committee's recent report "The Elderly and Domestic Violence in Delaware"; and 2) resource information about agencies and programs that provide services and response to older Delawareans who are victimized by family members. The infographic is ready for immediate use at upcoming outreach events.

The Committee will be having an outreach table at Legislative Hall on March 28th and conducting presentations to the Delaware House of Representatives Health Committee, the Wilmington Health Planning Council and a local television station, WITN 22.

Legislative Committee:

HB 301 will allow the various at-large members of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to be appointed for 3-year terms and be eligible for reappointment. There will be a change in language to stagger beginning dates of members so there's no wipe-out of members all in one year.

Executive Director's Report and Announcements:

- DVCC site updated – look at, review, and make recommendations.
- Department Of Education – will speak at the September Council meeting. Based on DOE report, looks as though there is a 38% increase in reporting which is attributed to increased education. SB102 will increase mandatory training hours for Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Assault for nurses and school counselors. McKean High School and Cab Calloway will assist in creating six 20-minute modules for online training.
- Verizon HopeLine – as of March 2018 will no longer be collecting cell phones and services will be cancelled December 2018 for all phones in circulation.
- National Opioid Epidemic affecting DV – Moe and/or Natasha will be attending webinar
- Rape Survivor Child Custody Act – Delaware doesn't currently qualify for STOP grants based on Sexual Bill of Rights.
- Survivors' Bill of Rights Act, 2016 – amends Victim of Crime Assistance with survivor notification.
- Focus on Prom time – tones of sexual violence/ pressure/ coercion etc. Pat will be going into schools for resource tables and training.
- Terminating parental rights of sexual assault perpetrators will be discussed at the May 2018 Council meeting.

Public Comment:

- Michelle Ostafy Clinician, Child Inc. made statements to the Council regarding her concerns regarding the dismantling of the Parent Education Program.
- Mariann Kenville Moore, DCADV made statements to the Council regarding the elimination of Family Violence line (under \$1.4 million) in the Governor's Budget. Vote will occur May 2018 – on Resolution format.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, May 14 @ 1:00 p.m., Buena Vista – Buck Library

The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.